

BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR  
TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER  
P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, Wisconsin 54861



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# BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

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August 8, 2013

Tamara Cameron  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678


Dear Ms. Cameron;

I am writing as a follow-up to our telephone discussion yesterday regarding the meeting between representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Gogebic Taconite, LLC. It is our understanding that the intent of the meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> is for regulators to discuss with Gogebic Taconite the environmental review process and the various baseline data requirements related to mine permitting in the Bad River Watershed.

I want to state very clearly that the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is a sovereign, conterminous government with regulatory authorities (Clean Water Act §303 and §401) over downstream waters and commensurate authorities under the Clean Air Act. Primacy for determining what data is necessary to demonstrate compliance with tribal regulations (e.g. Water Quality Standards) rests solely with the Tribe. We ask that you include us in the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting or other activities where decision-making is informed. We strongly recommend that fellow regulators foster an inclusive environment so as to avoid unnecessary discrepancies, inefficiencies, or (in-)actions that result in an inability to demonstrate compliance with tribal regulatory authorities.

Based upon our review of the situation and yesterday's phone conversation, I feel confident that our status as a government and regulator will be respected. I would greatly appreciate a response by Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> to confirm our attendance.

Respectfully,

  
Ervin Soulier  
Natural Resources Manager

cc:

Naomi Tillison, BRNRD  
Cyrus Hester, BRNRD  
Tinka Hyde, USEPA  
Melanie Haveman, USEPA  
Kathleen Mayo, USEPA  
Rebecca Graser, USACE